THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Pakistani troops resorted to heavy unprovoked firing in the Kargil sector on 20th July, 2001. They fired approximately 80 rounds of artillery, 40 rounds of mortars and hundred rounds of small arms. Out of these approximately 20 rounds of artillery fell about 3.5 kms west of Kargil Town. There were no casualties.

(c) to (e) Artillery and mortar fire on 20.7.2001 which emanated from gun positions within Pakistan Occupied Kashmir territory was effectively retaliated by our troops.

Misuse of Official Vehicles by JAG

3381. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE »• be pleased to state:

(a) whether misappropriation and misuse of official vehicles by Judge Advocate Genral, Department of Army have been reported; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to get the matter investigated through an independent agency like the CBI in view of involvement of JAG officers themselves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) No reports regarding misuse of official vehicle by JAG Department of Army has been reported. However, an Army Wives Association (an NGO) vehicle provided to the institute of Military Law was reported against in 1998. In this case an Army inquiry was carried out and necessary action has been taken. The need to carry out a CBI inquiry did not arise because the inquiry was carried out by officer other than JAG Branch.

Hovercraft for Border Patrolling

3382. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that army had sought hovercraft alongwith highspeed boats for border patrolling;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government would acquire the same for inducting into the army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.